

City of Santa Barbara

CREEKS RESTORATION AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair DeVoe at 5:34 p.m. at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Myfanwy DeVoe (Chair)	Environmental/Land Use
Daniel E. Hochman (Vice Chair)	Hotel/Lodging Industry
Michael Jordan	Business Community
Bruce Klobucher	Ocean Users
Jeff Phillips	Environmental/Land Use
David Pritchett	Environmental/Land Use
George Weber	Environmental/Land Use

Members Absent

Daniel Waldman	Environmental/Land Use
Daniel Wilson	Community at Large

Liaison Representatives Present

Rob Almy	County Project Clean Water Liaison
Beebe Longstreet	Park and Recreation Commission

Liaison Representatives Absent

Iya Falcone	City Council Liaison
John Jostes	Planning Commission Liaison

Staff Present

Jill E. Zachary	Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
George Johnson	Creeks Restoration Planner
Jessica Scheeter	Creeks Outreach Coordinator

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 21, 2005.

ACTION:

Hochman moved, seconded by Jordan, and passed 5/0 that the Committee approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2005. Weber and Klobucher abstained.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Klobucher introduced himself and stated that he will be holding the Ocean Users seat on the Committee. Mr. Weber introduced himself as an Environmental Land/Use committee member. Ms. Longstreet introduced herself. She is the Park and Recreation Committee liaison to the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Ms. Longstreet left at 5:39 p.m.

5. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Education and Outreach Program Update

Ms. Scheeter, Creeks Outreach Coordinator, gave a review of the Creeks Division Education and Outreach Program including project outreach, community events, youth education, and marketing and media. She requested input from the Committee related to media campaigns.

Rob Almy arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Ms. Scheeter said that the community programs and events planned for 2006 include the watershed forum, steelhead festival, creek clean-ups, kids creek festival, community planting days, earth day, and other events as well as an internship program. She said that youth education is conducted through the "Creeks Kids Series" in conjunction with the Community Environmental Council and through classroom presentations made to local children in grades K-6, and those attending summer camps and science fairs. She said that the 4,235 students received presentations through this program last year.

Ms. Scheeter stated that print advertisements currently running from November

2005 through June 2006 in the *Independent* and *Santa Barbara News Press* address pet waste, leaky cars, over-watering and lawn chemical use. She added that a new bus sign has been produced for the interior of local transit buses.

Ms. Scheeter said that radio messages have been airing on six local radio stations – four English language and two Spanish language stations – and that a new message would air in March 2006.

Ms. Scheeter stated that the television campaign includes two Spanish language messages focusing on water quality and community health, as well as storm drains and beach pollution. She said that the English language messages relate to pet waste disposal, and general creek and ocean water quality issues. She added that a new PSA is currently being produced. Each television PSA was shown to the Committee, including the “Rubber Ducky” PSA that the City is using with the permission from the City of San Diego.

Community Discussion:

Mr. Hochman noted that the youth education flier does not have the Creeks Division logo or the funding tagline.

- Ms. Zachary responded that the youth in-class education flier does not include the logo because the program is supported by multiple funding sources. She said that the logo could be added if necessary.

Mr. Klobucher asked what follow-up mechanism would be used to measure the efficacy of the Public Service Announcements. He suggested that the PSAs air during prime-time.

- Ms. Scheeter responded that a follow-up public opinion survey will take place to assess community awareness. She said that prime-time slots are purchased and that the off-hour slots are non-profit matches provided by the carrier.

Mr. Weber asked if there is a component of youth education geared towards 7-12 grade students.

- Ms. Scheeter responded that the Public Education Plan assessed various age groups and suggested that the focus be on younger children.
- Ms. Zachary responded that the older children have participated in hands-on programs such as the Youth Apprentice and the Green Teams programs.

Mr. Phillips suggested that future educational programs include topics related to contaminated beach closures, oiled wildlife, fish-kills from sewage spills, trash-filled lagoons, and sick surfers and swimmers. He suggested that the Public Service Announcements show the reasons why preventing pollution from entering the creeks is a worthwhile goal.

Mr. Pritchett said that he would like to see Public Service Announcement that are

confrontational.

Mr. Jordan suggested that future public service announcements focus on the volume of run-off, green waste, and car washing. He also suggested installing signage related to picking up pet waste and advertising on City TV 18.

Ms. DeVoe said that controversial Public Service Announcements may not work as well for environmental issues as they do for other issues.

b. Integrated Pest Management and Creek and Habitat Restoration

Mr. Johnson, Creeks Restoration Planner, stated that the IPM PHAER Zone designates specific areas according to the following three zones and that creeks and wetlands are designated Green.

Green Zone	Tier 3 pesticides allowed
Yellow Zone	Tier 2 & Tier 3 pesticides allowed
Special Circumstance Zone	Tier 1, 2, and 3 pesticides allowed

Mr. Johnson said that at the IPM work session on January 7, 2006, the PHAER Zone viewed favorably. The Strike Force concept still needs additional work so the PHAER Zone model will be presented to Council in February without the Strike Force concept.

Mr. Johnson stated that restoration projects face challenges under IPM. He said that non-native invasive weeds are the biggest problem in restoration sites. He said that physical controls such as digging or cutting the weeds are generally used, as well as cultural practices, such as mulching and watering. Mr. Johnson stated that these physical and cultural methods are difficult, have limited effectiveness, and are expensive. He stated that glyphosate is an effective alternative when addressing weed control during construction.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the proposed criteria and methods for the use of chemical controls in future restoration projects. He stated that the goal would be to reduce and eliminate pesticide use where feasible, and that physical and cultural methods would be the primary methods of weed control. He said that limited chemical control would be pursued for the construction phase when physical and cultural methods are less effective.

Mr. Johnson said that the physical and cultural methods used for weed control include hand weeding, digging, mowing, mulching, flaming, phased plantings, the use of drip irrigation, weed control fabric, black plastic, hot water, and the use of grow/kill cycles prior to project installation.

Mr. Johnson said that the criteria outline how weeds must be proven a threat to habitat before a chemical treatment can be used. He said that only specific herbicides would be used and the specific treatment location would be identified.

Mr. Johnson stated that a treatment time frame would be established as well as the estimated frequency of herbicide/pesticide applications. He said that wind and weather restrictions would be imposed and public areas would be posted.

Mr. Johnson stated that an IPM Plan would be used to identify methods and restrictions for each restoration project. He said that the IPM Plan would be approved by the IPM Advisory Committee and that the goal is to transition to Green management.

Mr. Johnson indicated that in the interim, the Creeks Division would be seeking an exemption for the use of glyphosate at the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project.

Community Discussion:

Mr. Jordan asked if the IPM process would be the same except that an exemption would no longer be required.

- Mr. Johnson responded that he is correct and that the guidelines would be agreed upon in advance as part of the IPM program.

Mr. Hochman asked if the PHAER Zone model applies to City owned land only, which could be contaminated by the use of chemicals on adjacent privately owned land. He also asked if agencies, other than the City, would be bound to the IPM guidelines. Mr. Hochman asked what type of action staff is asking the Committee to make.

- Mr. Johnson responded that other agencies would also be bound by the IPM program on City owned land only. He said that the use of chemicals on privately owned land could contaminate public land.
- Ms. Zachary said that the City is working to encourage private landowners to use alternative weed control methods as well. She said that neighborhood groups and volunteer groups assist with weeding local parks. She said that the Our Water Our World effort identifies less toxic pesticides available in local nurseries, and that there is a Green Gardener certification program offered through adult education.
- Ms. Zachary responded that staff identified a series of key criteria and methods to assess the need for chemical pesticide use during a creek restoration project. She said that staff is asking if the Committee agrees with this approach.

Mr. Klobucher asked what changes may have been made to the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project if it had been conceived using the IPM program.

- Mr. Johnson responded that the project would not have changed, but the weed species and chemical applications would have been more specific and public. He said that the process changes, not the project.

Mr. Phillips suggested distributing the list of chemicals on the City's materials list to the public and requested a copy.

Mr. Pritchett asked what was being asked of the Committee. He asked if the IPM Advisory Committee would develop a formal program that is forwarded to Council.

- Ms. Zachary responded that staff is asking for Committee comments and suggestions regarding the approach to establish specific criteria. She stated that at the worksession, the IPM Advisory Committee expressed a need to look at a variety of weed management strategies for creek restoration projects and that this approach needs to be further defined. She said that staff has created a comprehensive list and that IPM plans would be developed for each restoration project. Ms. Zachary stated that if the Committee agrees, staff would like to forward this approach to the IPM Advisory Committee for further discussion. She said that the best method to amend the IPM program to include creek restoration strategies could be to take the issue before Council. She said that IPM Advisory Committee is moving forward with the PHAER Zone report, including proposed maps for parks. She said that if the Park and Recreation Commission concurs with the IPM Advisory Committee then the issue would go before the Council in February but will not address the discussion related to creek restoration projects.

Mr. Pritchett reported on the January 7, 2006 PHAER Zone workshop. He said that the discussion focused on the Strike Force component, which is the option to use herbicides on particularly difficult weeds. He said that the IPM Advisory Committee members were concerned that this approach would curtail the review process. Mr. Pritchett suggested taking a programmatic approach to zonal management in which the most noxious weeds are handled in a predetermined manner. Mr. Jordan added that there was discussion at the PHAER Zone workshop that Measure B funds be used for IPM issues.

ACTION:

Hochman moved, seconded by Jordan, and passed 7/0 that the Committee recommend that the Creeks Division move forward in developing methods and criteria to work with the IPM Advisory Committee to develop a specific process in which herbicides and pesticides could be used in creek and habitat restoration projects.

Mr. Hochman suggested that an IPM subcommittee be created to work with staff on this issue.

Ms. Zachary suggested that the two Committee members that participated in the IPM worksession (Mr. Pritchett and Mr. Jordan) participate in the IPM Advisory Committee meeting that includes a discussion of creek restoration and IPM criteria. No date has been set for the IPM Advisory Committee meeting yet.

9. STAFF REPORTS

a. Manager's Program Update

Ms. Zachary reported that the recruitment for the Water Resources Specialist positions is currently underway. She stated that the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration Project has been awarded more than \$800,000 in grant funds including an additional \$75,000 from the Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund. She said that the Storm Water Management Program is going before the City Council on January 24, 2006.

b. Tentative Meeting Agenda

Ms. Zachary reviewed the tentative meeting agenda. Site visits were discussed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Committee,

ACTION:

Hochman moved, seconded by Jordan and passed 7/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Creek Restoration and Water Quality Improvement
Program Manager